

**Administrator's Update for 2/8/12**  
**By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

Staff in our community development department recently met with the consultants responsible for developing the Community Rating System on behalf of the National Flood Insurance Program (part of FEMA). The Community Rating System is the mechanism participating jurisdictions must use to show the level of control they have over development in the floodplain. How well each jurisdiction does has a direct impact on the cost of our citizens flood insurance so the better we do, the lower the cost. Charlotte County holds one of the highest ratings in the state and our residents currently save over \$5.8 million per year in flood insurance premiums. This high rating ranks us at eighth in the country for savings out of approximately 21,000 participating communities. The meeting was a great opportunity for the consultants to hear some of the specific local challenges we face, ask us about suggestions for improvement to the program and offer help and advice on how Charlotte County can improve our floodplain management.

**Hands Across the Harbor**

The fourth annual Hands Across the Harbor event, held on Jan. 28, was an huge success. Over 300 registered participants enjoyed the morning and the beautiful vistas of Charlotte Harbor as they walked, ran, and biked over the bridge. Special thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers that supported this year's event. Organized by the Charlotte Harbor and Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agencies, this year the two agencies were pleased to announce their partnership with the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. All proceeds from the Hands Across the Harbor event benefit the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC). Established in 1987 to promote environmental conservation, protection and preservation of the natural resources, the non-profit organization provides environmental education, recreation, environmental research, and conservation lands management services to residents and visitors to the region.

**FPEM**

Lynne Stickley of the Charlotte County Emergency Management Office received her certification as a Florida Professional Emergency Manager (FPEM). The certification is awarded by the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association at their annual meeting in Daytona. FPEM is the highest level of certification granted by the association and is attained by achieving an extensive level of emergency management training and completing numerous contributions to the field. Only 200 (approx.) Florida emergency managers have achieved the FPEM Certification.

**Webinars**

Our community development department and the US Green Building Council recently hosted their first monthly webinar, "Materials and Resources." With real projects and examples, participants were shown the practical implications of selecting local materials and materials with recycled content. The next webinar will be hosted on Feb 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Building Construction Services building conference room, 18400 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte. The upcoming webinar, "Driving Smart Decisions in Green Affordable Housing," will explain how high performance homes that support a green lifestyle and offer healthy environments are in harmony with the objectives of affordable housing. Attendees will learn how to implement affordable and cost-effective green strategies. The webinar is open to the public. Call 941.743.1215 for more information.

## **Boxing**

Our tourism office reports that the Charlotte Harbor Boxing and Fitness Club hosted the Florida Golden Gloves State Championships last month at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County. The event generated an estimated \$654,654 in direct expenditures and saw 218 boxers compete, with 70 percent of them non-local. The event attracted about 1,200 friends and family members from all over the state. The Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau assisted with locating a venue and promotional efforts.